

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 SAB-02 /063 W
-----018055 211606Z /47

P R 211500Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2848
INFO PANCANAL
USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, PN
SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS RETURN

REF: PANAMA 5086

1. RETURN OF PANAMANIAN TEAM MEMBERS FABREGA, GONZALEZ AND CONTRERAS EVENING OF JULY 20 DREW RELATIVELY LIGHT COVERAGE ON TELEVISION (FBIS/PANAMA PA 210242Y) AND JULY 21 NEWSPAPERS.

2. "CRITICA" WAS ONLY PAPER WITH MUCH: AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE THREE TEAM MEMBERS IN WHICH THEY STRESSED, WITHOUT FURTHER AMPLIFICATION, THAT ALL THE FIGURES APPEARING IN US MEDIA ON COMPENSATION ISSUE WERE "FALSE". CONTRERAS SAID BOTH SIDES HAD PRESENTED "PLANS" FOR LANDS AND WATERS USE; ALTHOUGH NO FINAL AGREEMENT REACHED, THINGS WERE GOING WELL. FABREGA STRESSED THAT "MANY DETAILS" OF THE AGREEMENT STILL NEED TO BE WORKED OUT.

3. GONZALEZ CONTINUED THAT ALTHOUGH THIS MIGHT BE THE "FINAL ROUND", THIS WAS NEITHER THE LAST TRIP TO WASHINGTON NOR THE LAST RETURN FOR CONSULTATION IN THAT ROUND--THE MATTER COULD
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TAKE ONE OR TWO MONTHS MORE, OR THERE MIGHT BE NO TREATY AT ALL IF THE US PROVED NOT TO HAVE SUFFICIENT BACKING IN CONGRESS TO NEGOTIATE. ALL THREE SAID US WAS IN FULL ACCORD THAT DEFENSE UNDER NEW TREATY WOULD BE "COMBINED" (COMBINADA) AND BILATERAL. BOTH TELEVISION AND NEWSPAPER COVERAGE SUGGESTED THAT LATER RETURN OF NEGOTIATORS ESCOBAR AND ROYO MIGHT BE MARKED BY REVELATION OF "A GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE" (TELEVISION) OR "MORE

PRECISE DETAILS" ("CRITICA") ON CURRENT STATUS OF NEGOTIATIONS.

4. LOCAL OPPOSITION LAWYERS CONTINUE THEIR MEDIA CAMPAIGN ON THE NEUTRALITY ISSUE. "ESTRELLA" FOR JULY 20, AS ITS ONLY TREATY-RELATED ITEM THAT DAY, PRINTED A LETTER FROM RICARDO ALFARO TO FOREIGN MINISTER ENDORSING BOTH SUBSTANCE OF POSITION TAKEN BY INDEPENDENT LAWYERS' MOVEMENT AND THEIR RIGHT TO BE HEARD IN A PUBLIC DEBATE ABOUT IT (FBIS/PANAMA PA 210312Y). JULY 20 EVENING TELEVISION COVERED ANOTHER LETTER TO MINISTER FROM INDEPENDENT LAWYERS (FBIS/PANAMA PA 211302Y, 2 TAKES). THIS REJECTS HIS EARLIER SUGGESTION (REFTTEL) THAT THEIR CAMPAIGN WAS OFFENSIVE TO PUBLIC OPINION, CATALOGS IN GREAT DETAIL MEDIA REFERENCES IN PANAMANIAN AND US PAPERS AND MAGAZINES OF RECENT MONTHS ABOUT NEUTRALITY AND US "INTERVENTION", AND MAINTAINS THEIR EARLIER STAND THAT SUCH CONCEPTION OF NEUTRALITY IS UNACCEPTABLE TO PANAMA AND THE WHOLE ISSUE OUGHT TO BE OPEN FOR PUBLIC DABATE. "ESTRELLA" PRINTED FULL TEXT ON FRONT PAGE JULY 21; "MATUTINO" MENTIONED IT ON EDITORIAL PAGE; OTHER PAPERS DO NOT MENTION IT.

5. LOCAL JOURNALISTS' UNION HAS PASSED A RESOLUTION CALLING OPERATION OF "MEDIA OF SOCIAL COMMUNICATION", INCLUDING TELEVISION AND RADIO STATIONS AND NEWSPAPERS, UNDER FOREIGN CONTROL IN CANAL ZONE AN UNACCEPTABLE INFRINGEMENT ON PANAMANIAN SOVEREIGNTY. THEY ASK GOP TO SEEK ELIMINATION OF US RIGHT TO OPERATE SUCH MEDIA IN TREATY NEGOTIATIONS. THIS WAS COVERED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON TELEVISION EVENING OF JULY 20 (FBIS/PANAMA PA 210410Y) AND PRINTED ON BACK PAGES OF JULY 21 "ESTRELLA" AND "MATUTINO".

GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEGOTIATIONS, CANALS, NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA05210
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770733/aaaabcmml.tel
Line Count: 98
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
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Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29-Mar-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1790730
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - PANAMANIAN NEGOTIATORS RETURN
TAGS: PBOR, PINT, EWWT, SOPN, PN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/74dfea65-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
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